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~~SECRET~~**Spot Report #3**

13 January 1992

Selected Intelligence Items Concerning the Proliferation of Special Weapons, Materials, and Expertise from the Commonwealth of Independent States

The Nonproliferation Center has agreed to serve as the focal point for information on the proliferation of weapons related material and the "brain drain" from the CIS. We urge anyone with information on these subjects--from trips to the CIS, contacts with academics or businessmen, or data from other sources--to contact [redacted] at the Center on weekdays between 8:00am and 5:00pm (EST) at:

Unclassified material can be FAXED to the Center 24 hours a day on the same number.

**Missile
Proliferation**

[redacted] the French and Italians were interested in purchasing SS-25s for satellite launch customers in the Third World. Half in jest, [redacted] the US had been offered the system first, a possible reference to the START, a solid-propellant mobile space launch vehicle that Votkinsk has in the past proposed for foreign sale. [redacted]

**Denying
Proliferation
Reports**

On 8 January, the heads of MAPI's Foreign Relations Department and the Russian MFA's Department of Scientific and Technical Cooperation called reports that nuclear material had been smuggled out of the former Soviet Union "unreliable," [redacted] MAPI official Ryzhov said that he wouldn't be surprised if the Central Asian states exported uranium, although he had no information such deals were occurring. MFA official Mayorskiy said the Russian government had received assurances from Tajikistan that no uranium exports were contemplated. He also said that the former republics were

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developing an intergovernmental agreement to adhere to Soviet export control regulations. [REDACTED]

Brain Drain
Issues

[REDACTED]

Brazilian press says six Russians from the Kazan Aviation Institute are working at Ijuí University, while four Ukrainian scientists will begin work on superconductivity at Brasília University at the end of the month. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a proposal by Russian scientists to establish an international fund to provide stipends for nuclear scientists to stop emigration had the support of both French President Mitterrand and Italian Prime Minister Andreotti. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Russian Deputy Defense Minister Tsalko told [REDACTED] that "whole towns of employees" at Semipalatinsk were disappearing and that it was virtually impossible to keep track of their whereabouts. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In an apparent attempt to drum up US interest in helping with defense conversion, the chairman of the Russian Committee on Conversion called [REDACTED] to discuss the collapse of the defense industry. He lauded "appropriate" Western concerns of emigration of nuclear scientists, but noted that chemical and conventional weapons proliferation could pose a greater danger in the short term. [REDACTED]

Scam Activity

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~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

the 30 kilos of uranium seized in November was depleted, useless material and that there was no evidence it came from the former Soviet Union. The Swiss citizen arrested will be prosecuted for attempted fraud and possibly illegal possession of uranium. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A 6 January Pravda article--citing a Middle Eastern weekly--claimed that Iran had purchased 3 nuclear weapons from the former Soviet Union and was employing 50 nuclear specialists. During the visit of an Iranian delegation to Central Asia sometime prior to the coup, an Iranian nuclear scientist was attempting to recruit Soviet nuclear scientists for work in Iran. One such scientist reportedly suggested that Iran instead simply purchase the weapons. Kazakhstan repeated the offer to another delegation following the coup. Iran reportedly placed a \$3 million deposit into a Luxembourg bank towards the total cost of about \$150 million. Iran also hired 50 specialists--at \$5,000 per month each--to assemble the weapons. In a 7 January Krasnaya zvezda article, Defense Minister Shaposhnikov heatedly denied that any nuclear weapons had been sold, labelling as nonsense suggestions that the question of selling them had been raised by

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Russian Vice President Rutskoy during a trip to Iran and Pakistan.

[REDACTED]

A Tajik government-controlled newspaper claimed in late December that Tajikistan had nationalized uranium mines and an enriching plant and was planning on selling the material to Middle Eastern countries, including Iraq and Libya. The government subsequently denied the reports before Tajik's Parliament; a press contact [REDACTED] believes the story was planted to try to put pressure on Russia to provide aid to Tajikistan. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*Sign of the
Times*

[REDACTED] that there is a possibility that commodity exchanges could engage in covert sales of strategic materials, although [REDACTED] no information that such deals had occurred. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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